ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

66th. Annual Session

OF THE

Massle Shoals Primitive Baptist Association.

—HELD WITH—

Friendship church, Winston county, Ala;

—ON—

—FRIDAY, OCTOBER, THE 2nd. 1885—

The next meeting of this Association will meet with Shady Grove church, Winston county, Ala., on Friday, before the 1st. Sabbath in October, 1886.

1885:
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Proceedings

—of the—

Muscle Shoals Primitive Baptist Association

The Sixty-sixth Anniversary of the Muscle Shoals Association of the Primitive Baptists was held with Friendship church, Winston county Ala., commencing on Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1885. The introductory sermon was preached by Eld., S. W. Kemp, from the 16th verse of the 3rd chapter of Malachi.

Article, 1st.—The letters from the different churches was called for, read and received and the names of the delegates enrolled as the table will show. The Association was then organized by the election of Eld., J. J. Godsey Moderator and W. R. Godsey, clerk.

2nd.—Invited ministering brethren of our Faith and order to seats with us

3rd.—Called for petitionary letters---received none.

4th.—Called for letters of correspondence---Received a letter and some minutes from our sister, the Little Vine Association, by the hands of her mesengers,viz: Elders B. Avery, Jas. A. Holcombe, Bro. J. M. Bishop, Thomas McCorley, Eld. A. J. Taylor, Peter Ingle, and Thos. Windset, which letter and brethren were cordialy received, and right hand of fellowship extended and the brethren invited to seats with us.

5th.—Motioned and ordered that Eld., J. J. Godsey, be added to the number of delegates from Providence church.

6th.---Appointed the following brethren a committe of arrangements, viz: J. L. Graves, J. N. Smith and J. F. Cagle, together with the moderator and clerk.

7th.---Appointed a committe to arrange preaching during the session, to-wit: J. H. Henson, J. N. Smith, John Frances, J. L. Graves, W. I. Painter.

8th.---Appointed a committee on finance, to-wit; Eld., S. W. Kemp, and John Frances.

9th.---Appointed Bro. J. L. Graves to write the corresponding letter to our sister, the Little Vine Association.

Having gone through with the business of the first day, adjourned until Saturday morning, 9 o'clock. Prayer, by Eld., J. A. Holbombe.

Saturday morning nine o'clock.

The association met pursuant to adjournment—Prayer, by the moderator.

10th.—Called for the report of the committee of arrangements; The committee reports that we take up the business as it stands on last year's minutes—the report was received and the committe discharged.

11th.—The next session of this body will be holden with Shady Grove church, Winston County, Ala., commencing on Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1886. The introductory sermon to be preached by Eld S. W. Kemp; and Eld., J. J. Godsey, alternate.

12th.—Our next Union Meeting will be holden with Friendship church, Winston county, Ala., commencing on Friday before the 4th., Sunday in August, 1886.

13th.—Called for the report of the committee on finance; committee reports: Present contribution, five dollars and ten cents—report received and committee discharged.

14th.—Motioned and ordered that we have one hundred copies of minutes printed, and that W. R. Godsey superintend the printing, and reserve 50 copies for correspondence.

15th.—Called for the reading of the corresponding letter to our sister the Little Vine Association which was read and received, and the following brethren appointed to bear it, to-wit: Elders S. W. Kemp, and J. J. Godsey, Bros. J. L. Graves, W. R. Godsey, W. R. Bonds, J. F. Cagle and John Frances. The Brethren appointed to preach came forward in the order of their names and preached to a well ordered congregation with power and demonstration of the holy spirit.

The Association tenders her heartfelt thanks to Friendship church, for their hospitality during our stay with them.

ELDER J. J. GODSEY, MODERATOR.

W. R. GODSEY, CLERK

CONSTITUTION OF THE MUSCLE SHOALS ASSOCIATION

We, the Primitive Baptist Churches, in the State of Alabama, having been baptized upon a profession of our Faith in Christ, are convinced of the necesity of a combination of churches, in order to perpetuate an union among us, and to preserve and maintain a correspondence with each other. We, therefore, propose to maintain and keep the order and rules of an association according to the following plan:

1st.---The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union; who, on presenting letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

2nd.---The letters from the different churches are to express their members in full fellowship---those baptised, recieved by letter, dismissed, excommunicated or dead. since the last Association.

3rd.---The members thus chosen and convened shall be known by the name of Mucle Shoals Association of the Primitive order of Baptist, who shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, or to infringe any of the internal rights of the churches in union, but shall be considered merely an advisory council in matters respecting their internal concerns, for the common benefit of all such churches. yet the Association shall have power to exclude any church from the union, which shall violate or deviate from the orthodox principles of of the Gospel.

4th.—Each church in the union shall be entitled to three delagetes or messengers; and should any church fail to represent herself, shall state the reason in her letter to the next Association.

5th.---New churches may be admitted into the union, who shall petition by letter and messengers, and upon examination, if found orthodox and orderly shall be received into the association, and the reception thereof manifested by the giving the right hand.

6th.—The Association, when convened, shall be governed by regular and proper rules of decorum, which they

are authorized to form for themselves.

7th.—The Association shall appoint a Moderator from among themselves, for the time being, whose duty it shall be to see that the rules of decorum be attended to, and take the opinion of the Association on all questions properly brought before it: also a Clerk shall be oppointed whose duty it shall be to take proper minutes of their proceedings.

8th.—Every query sent by a particular church must be enclosed in her letter, certifying that she has endeavered to settle it, but could not---in which case the Association shall take it under consideration, and give their advice.

9th.—Queries which immediately concern the union or state of churches at large, when sent by a particular church, as from them, or handed in by proper motion, made and seconded by an individual, shall be taken up and decided as soon as opportunity will admit.

10th.---The Association shall have a fund for the support of the same, which shall be supplied by voluntary contribution of the churches, whose duty it shall be to send it by te hands of their messengers, which moneys shall be deposited in the hands of the Treasurer for that purpose, who shall be accountable to the association for all moneys by him received, or paid out as they may direct.

11th.---There shall be an "association book" provided and kept, in which the proceedings of the association shall be recorded by the Clerk.

12th.---The association shall be governed in all cases by a majority of the members present.

13th.---This association shall correspond with other associations, as may be agreed on while in session.

14th.—The association at her first session shall appoint one of the ministering brethren to preach an introductory sermon, at their next session, which rule be observed at every association thereafter.

15th.---The association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of their proceedings.

16th.--Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any time when two thirds of the churches composing

the association may deem it necessary.

17th. The minutes of the association shall be read and corrected (if necessary) and signed by the Moderator and attested by the Clerk. before the association rises.

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES.

We do now jointly engage in the strength of the Lord, and through His assistance to keep the Faith as it was once delivered to the Saints, which we believe to contain the following sublime and important docterines, to-wit:

The being of a God, a Trinity of persons in the Godhead; and that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God,and the only rule of faith and practice. The fall of Adam; the degeneracy of his prosperity, the corruption of human nature, and the inability of fallen man to do that which is spiritualy good. The everlasting love of God to his people. A covenant of Grace with Jesus Christ. Election in Him before the foundation of the world, and a particular redemption by His blood. Justification by the imputation of Christ's righteousness. Pardon and reconcilliation through Him,called regeneration and sanctification by the influence of the Holy Spirit. The final perseverance of the Saints in Grace. The resurection of the dead and gederal Judgement. The joys of the righteous and punishment of the wicked will be eternal; and that Baptism is by immersion in water. We believe that the sacrament and feet washing are the ordinances of the church, and that none but regularly baptised persons have the right to commune together at the Lord's Table; also, that ministers have no right to the administration of the ordinance but such as are regularly baptised. called and come under the imposition of hands by Presbytery.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1st.---The association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2nd.--But one person shall speak at a time, and he shall arise and address the Moderator.

3rd---No person shall be interupted while speaking, unless he departs from the subject under consideration, or uses words of personal reflection.

4th.—Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by the person making it, and if there are two or more motions before the Association at the same time and on the same subject the first motion shall have preference.

5th --Every case taken by the Association shall be disposed of, or withdrawn before another is offered.

6th.---When anything is taken up by the Association, after allowing time for the debates, the Moderator shall put the question and those in favor of the

thing proposed shall rise to their feet; and those opposed to it, shall keep their seats. The decision thus made shall be announced by the Moderator immediately.

7th.---No person shall depart from the services without leave.

8th.---No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave, nor shall any person be made to close the subject without the debates are through with.

9th---The appelation of "brother" shall be used when addressing each other

10th.---The moderator shall be entitled to the same privilage of speech as any other member, provided he shall appoint some other member to fill the chair while speaking but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided.

11th.---And person breaking the rules of decorum shall be reproved as the Association may think proper.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE CHURCHES.

Churches.	Post Office.	Names of Delegates.	Baptised	Sun. meeting.	Dismissed	Rec'd by letter	Excluded	Restored	Died	Total No.	Contribution
Friendship	Ark	W.R.Godsey,J.C. Cagle, John Henson		3			1			27	2,10
Providence	Hatton	S. W. Kemp, J. J. Godsey, J. N. Smith	3	1					1	21	1,50
Shady Grove	Double Springs	W. R. Bonds and W. I, Painter,	3	4	6					3	1,00
Zion,	Newburg,	J. L. Graves	2							7	,50
Bunyan Hill	Moulton	John Frances									